

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3-8, and 10-15 are pending in this application. Claims 1 and 8 are independent. Claims 2 and 9 are cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer to the subject matter included therein. In light of the amendments and remarks contained herein, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding rejections.

In the outstanding Official Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1, 3-4, 6-8, 10-11, and 13-15 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Wolff et al.* (U.S.P. 6,072,261) in view of *Krasuski et al.* (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2001/0032033). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for indicating that claims 2, 5, 9, and 12 include allowable subject matter.

Claim Rejections

By this amendment, Applicant has amended claims 1 and 8 to include the elements of allowable claims 2 and 9, respectively. Applicant has further cancelled claims 2 and 9 without prejudice or disclaimer to the subject matter included therein. These amendments are being made without conceding the propriety of the Examiner's rejection, but merely to timely advance prosecution of the present application.

Applicant has further amended the claims to remove any reference to cancelled claims 2 and 9.

As the Examiner has indicated that claims 2 and 9 include allowable subject matter, and as the independent claims have been amended to include the allowable subject matter, Applicant respectfully submits that the present application is now in proper form for allowance.

Conclusion

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Catherine M. Voisinet (Reg. No. 52,327) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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